I. MATTHEW’S LIFE.

A. He had two names.

1. Levi, his original name means “Gift of God”.

2. Matthew, his second name means “Joiner”.

B. His father’s name was Alpheus (Mark 2:14).

C. His brother may have been another disciple named James—Mark 2:14 and Matt 10:3.

D. His name appears 8 times in the gospels and Acts.

E. He was either born in Galilee or worked there.

F. His occupation was a tax collector.


2. Made their personal wages by taxing citizens above their actual taxes due.

G. Jesus called him to become a disciple and one of his twelve—Matthew 9:9.

H. He gave Jesus a banquet at his own house—Matt. 9:10-13.

1. The banquet indicates he was wealthy.

2. The banquet also indicates he was influential with other tax collectors.

3. The banquet further indicates he wanted his friends to meet Jesus too.

I. While the other gospels only referred to Matthew by name, he, on the other hand, always referred to himself as a tax collector.

J. Following his call he is not mentioned again, other than as a name in the list of other disciples.

K. He authored the first gospel and first book in the N.T. How do we know he wrote the gospel of Matthew?

1. Internal evidence.

   a. All four gospels are strictly anonymous, but there are some clues as to their authorship.
b. The language and knowledge of scripture indicates the author was a Jew.

c. Matthew is the only gospel that mentions Jesus paying taxes.

d. Matthew is the only gospel that refers to Matthew as a publican.

e. The book is highly organized which might fit Matthew’s skill as a publican.

f. The gospel of Matthew talks more about money than any other gospel.

2. External evidence.

   a. The early church accepted his authorship of Matthew.

   b. Papias (60-130 A.D.) a second century church leader wrote that Matthew was its author.

L. Tradition says after remaining in Palestine for several years he eventually went to Ethiopia where he died as a martyr.

II. MATTHEW’S LESSONS.

A. He demonstrates that everyone can be saved—John 1:12.

B. We should always be grateful for our salvation as Matthew must have been.

C. There are some things that money cannot buy. Although Matthew was wealthy he gave it all up to follow Jesus.

D. We should be ready to be criticized by both believers and unbelievers for our stand as Christians.

E. We should be able to leave our differences at the door of the church as Matthew and Simon the Zealot must have done.

F. We may be able to reach our friends and relatives for Jesus.